

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. Claims 1-21 are currently pending, claims 1 and 21 have been amended, and claims 1 and 21 are independent claims.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment after final in that the claim amendments only further clarify limitations previously set forth, place the claims in allowable form, and do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter recited in claims 2-20.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Haft (U.S. Patent No. 3,621,169). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, especially in view of claims 1 and 21 as now amended.

On page 3 of the outstanding Office Action in the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner submits that Haft teaches the dissipation of gas "at the

sides", as set forth in claim 1, stating that the device (of Haft) includes six sides, one of which dissipates a gas through an opening (66). However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion, especially in view of claims 1 and 21 as now amended.

As discussed in Applicants' previous response, Fig. 3 (of Haft) teaches a flame and noise muffle, which includes a rectangular box-like enclosure 40. The enclosure 40 includes sidewalls 41 and 42, and is divided into three compartments 45, 46, and 47, by intermediate barrier walls 43 and 44. Each compartment 45, 46, and 47 includes five serially connected portions, a precooler 51, diffusion means 52, a first cooler portion 53, a diffusion chamber 54, and a cooler chamber 55. The enclosure 40 further includes an integral end wall 65, having a plurality of rectangular apertures 66. Arc gas flows from the arc portion 10 into the enclosure 40, through the serial connected portions 51 through 55, and is subsequently output through the rectangular aperture 66 in the end wall 65.

However, Applicants respectfully assert that Haft fails to teach or suggest at least the dissipation of switching gas flows at sides "extending at a right angle to the rear wall and the bottom", of the enclosure, as now set forth in claim 1. In contrast, as discussed in Applicants' previous Response (and further discussed above), Haft discloses a circuit interrupter, which outputs cooled arc gas through the integral end wall 65 of the enclosure 40, and not at sides "extending at a right angle to the rear wall and the bottom" of the enclosure, as now set forth in claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully assert

that Haft fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations as recited in claim 1,
especially in view of claim 1 as now amended.

With regard to independent claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 is also allowable for at least reasons somewhat similar to those as discussed above with regard to independent claim 1, although claim 21 should be interpreted solely based upon the limitations presented therein.

As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all of the above rejections.

CONCLUSION

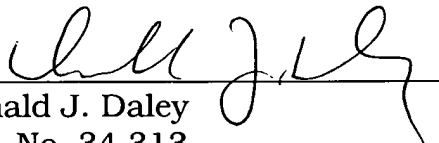
In view of above remarks, entry of Applicants Amendment after final, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection, and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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